

The latest news for Minnesota Housing's COVID-19 Homeowner Assistance Fund Program



HomeHelpMN Plan Approved by Minnesota Housing Board

For many Minnesota homeowners, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it hard to keep up with mortgage payments and other essential obligations.

Minnesota Housing, thanks to the input and feedback received from many of you, has drafted a plan for the **HomeHelpMN COVID-19 Homeowner Assistance Fund**. The program will assist individual homeowners struggling with mortgage or related housing costs due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minnesota Housing Board of Directors approved the HomeHelpMN COVID-19 Homeowner Assistance Fund plan on Thursday. **The plan now goes to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for action.**

What Can Homeowners Do Today?

We do not yet have a date established to begin pre-screening for HomeHelpMN eligibility.

If you or someone you know are concerned about keeping your home, help is available through Minnesota's network of HUD-approved housing counselors.

You should not wait to begin these steps:

- **Connect with a HUD-approved housing counselor.** This is especially important if you are facing foreclosure. HUD-approved housing counselors provide free, unbiased, confidential services to help homeowners make choices to address their housing needs. To find a counselor in your area, contact the [Minnesota Homeownership Center](#).
- **Contact your mortgage servicer** to discuss what options may be available to you to avoid foreclosure. You can learn more at the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#).
- **Apply for Energy Assistance.** If you are behind on utility bills, you may qualify for assistance. Contact the [Minnesota Department of Commerce](#) or call 651.657.3710.

What's in the HomeHelpMN plan?

The HomeHelpMN program, pending final approval by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, includes a combination of housing counseling support and direct financial assistance to help eligible homeowners avoid foreclosure.

Eligible Expenses:

- Mortgage reinstatement
 - Funds to bring current past due mortgage payment(s) and land contract payments
- Loan modification
 - Principal and/or interest rate reductions, with the loan servicer's approval
- Past due property charges, including:
 - Delinquent property taxes and insurance
 - Homeowner association fees
 - Manufactured home lot rent

Expenses Not Covered:

- Home repairs
- Internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Utilities, including electric, gas, and water

Homeowner eligibility guidelines will be published when they have been approved. The proposed plan bases eligibility on income as well as other factors, with an income limit of 100% of area median income.

You can find out more about the plan by reviewing the [Program Concept](#).

Questions?

Have questions about HomeHelpMN? Write to us at homehelpmn@state.mn.us.

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